

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An absorbent article comprising:
a liquid-permeable upper surface; and
an absorbent structure exhibiting a planar extension;
wherein the absorbent structure comprises an acquisition layer and at least one storage layer;
wherein the acquisition layer comprises a plurality of fragments of a liquid-absorbing, open-celled, polyacrylate-based foam material;
wherein each fragment exhibits a planar extension having a transversal direction and a longitudinal direction, and a thickness direction extending perpendicularly to the planar extension;
wherein the width in the transversal direction on each fragment in a dry condition does not exceed 10 millimeters; and
wherein the total area of the fragments in dry condition in the planar extension is lower than the area of the absorbent structure in the planar extension.
2. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein each fragment in a dry condition exhibits a length in the transversal direction which does not exceed 7 millimeters.
3. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein each fragment in a dry condition exhibits a length in the longitudinal direction which does not exceed 20 millimeters.
4. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the total area of the fragments in the planar extension maximally is 50% of the total area of the absorbent structure in the planar extension.
5. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the total area of the fragments in the planar extension maximally is 30% of the total area of the absorbent structure in the planar extension.

6. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein each fragment in a dry condition exhibits a density of at least 0.18 g/cm³.
7. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the volume of each fragment upon wetting increases by at least 500%.
8. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the area in the planar extension of each fragment upon wetting increases by at least 300%.
9. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the fragments are applied against the upper surface of the storage layer in the wetting area.
10. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the storage layers comprises cellulosic fibers and particulate superabsorbent, wherein the amount of superabsorbent material calculated on the total weight of the storage layer in dry condition is at least 50 percent by weight.
11. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the storage layers comprises cellulosic fibers and particulate superabsorbent, wherein the amount of superabsorbent material calculated on the total weight of the storage layer in dry condition is at least 70 percent by weight.
12. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent article is a diaper, an incontinence guard, a sanitary napkin, or the like.